

Filed for intro on 02/05/98

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 510
By McDonald

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate Jim and Jesse McReynolds upon receiving the 1997 National Heritage Fellowship.

WHEREAS, it is only fitting that the elected members of this General Assembly should recognize those outstanding individuals whose artistic achievements have made a significant impact on Tennessee as well as the nation; and

WHEREAS, Jim and Jesse McReynolds are two individuals who are most certainly deserving of special recognition; and

WHEREAS, known as the “brothers of bluegrass”, Jim and Jesse McReynolds are the proud recipients of the National Heritage Fellowship, the most prestigious honor the National Endowment for the Arts can bestow; and

WHEREAS, they will be among 11 artists honored in a ceremony at the White House for their outstanding achievements in the folk arts; and

WHEREAS, born in Virginia, Jim and Jesse McReynolds learned music from family members, many of which were accomplished mountain musicians; and

WHEREAS, Jim began displaying his exemplary talents on the guitar while Jesse mastered a crosspicking technique and an unprecedented split-string style on the mandolin; and

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WHEREAS, fifty years ago, Jim and Jesse began to play in public, and shortly thereafter, they won a talent contest and began to perform at radio stations throughout the South and Midwest; and

WHEREAS, the McReynolds' music career was put on hold twice when both brothers were called to serve their nation in the Armed Forces, Jim bravely fought in World War II and Jesse proudly defended his country in the Korean War; and

WHEREAS, upon their safe return, Jim and Jesse McReynolds eagerly resumed their music career; and

WHEREAS, in 1964, Jim and Jesse McReynolds landed the most coveted job in bluegrass and country music, joining the Grand Ole Opry, where they have been a popular mainstay for 33 remarkable years; and

WHEREAS, it is more than appropriate that the members of this General Assembly honor these two outstanding gentlemen for their contributions to bluegrass music and to congratulate them on their national honor; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE-HUNDREDTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That we hereby honor and congratulate Jim and Jesse McReynolds for their outstanding accomplishments to bluegrass music and to congratulate them on being honored at the White House.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That appropriate copies of this resolution be prepared for presentation to Jim McReynolds and Jesse McReynolds with this final clause omitted from such copies.